

By the Queene.

A proclamation to admonishe all persons to forbear traffique in the king of
Spaynes countreys, With other aduertisementes for aunliberyng
of a generall arrest made in the lowe countreys by the Duke of Alua.



THE Queenes maiestie lately vnderstandyng, that by a sodaine commaun-
dement of the Duke of Alua, as gouernour in the low countreys belonging to her ma-
iesties good brother the kyng of Spayne, al maner her marchaunts and other her sub-
iectes inhabytyng in the towne of Andwerpe, were arrested & put vnder garde of cer-
taine companies of souldiours, and their goodes and marchaundizes also seased, about
the xxix. of the last moneth of December, and since that time the like arrest is made ge-
nerally in the sayde low countreys: A matter very straunge, and heretofore in no tyme
bled betwixt the Crowne of Englande and the house of Burgondy, without some ma-
ner of former conference precedyng, and intelligence had of the myndes and intentions
of the princes them selues on both sydes. Whereupon her maiestie hath thought good, to geue warnyng to all her
subiectes that haue any cause to traffique in any of the countreys of the saide kyng, that they shal forbear the same,
vntyll further knowledge may appeare of the mynde of the sayde kyng hym selfe howe he shall allowe hereof: whiche
beyng knowen to her maiestie, shalbe notified to her sayde subiectes. And in the meane tyme, her maiestie wylleth
and commaundeth all maner her officers, of all townes, burghes, cities, portes, and all other landyng places within
any of her dominions, that they do cause all and euery person bozne vnder any part of the obedience of the sayd kyng
of Spayne, or lyuyng in his countreys and professyng obedience to the sayd kyng, and their goodes, marchaundizes,
shippes, and vessels, to be arrested and stayed, to be forth commyng and aunswerable, aswell for the indemnitie of
her maiesties subiectes alreedy, without any iust cause deteyned, as for other necessarie consequencies: and that also
in all townes, hauens, and dwellyng places, where any marchauntes bozne or professyng the obedience of the sayde
kyng, shalbe founde to be suspected for conuertying or conueying of their goodes, by any maner of fraude or colour of
bergayne, from the arrest and seasure therof: there the principall officers of that towne or place, with assaistance of
others Iustices of peace, shal proceede to the inquisition therof by all maner good meanes, and shal commit to warde
aswell the parties, of what nation soeuer they be, that haue or shalbe priuie or aydyng to any fraudulent colouryng,
except they shal first confesse the same, as also the others that haue so coloured the same, and the goodes to be also
put in safetie. And yet because her maiestie hath no other meanyng herein, but to haue the persons of the sayde
kynges subiectes and their goodes put in safetie by this arrest, for the preseruacion of her owne good subiectes and
their goodes, and to be respondent for such other disordered actions as may ensue of these so straunge and hasty at-
temptes: she wylleth and chargeth all maner her officers, ministers, and subiectes, that no violence be vled to the
hurt of the persons of any the sayde kynges subiectes by reason of this arrest, without they shal by manifest wyllfull
resistance prouoke the same, neither that any spoyle, waste, or damage be done to their goodes and marchaundizes,
but only to cause them to be put in good garde and safetie. And yf any of the sayde kynges subiectes shal challenge
to be exempted out of this arrest by reason they be denizens, her maiestie in dede hauing no meaning to impeach them
therof, and yet for the tyme not knowyng howe in lyke cases her subiectes beyng naturalized in the sayde kynges
countreys, are or shalbe vled: is pleased that the sayde persons beyng in dede denizens, shal but fynde sufficient suer-
ties to be forth commyng, with their goodes: and yf they so wyll not, then they shalbe committed to the custody and
garde of some other Englyshe marchauntes, and due inuentories taken of their goodes, vntyll knowledge may be
had howe her maiesties subiectes be or shalbe vled on the other part. And consideryng also her maiestie vnderstan-
deth that a number of artificers and other sortes of people, haue since the begynnyng of the late inwarde troubles
in the lowe countreys, resorted hyther into her realme for auoydyng of the sayde troubles, aswell for their conscien-
ces, as for the daungers that properly folowe such ciuile troubles: her wyll and pleasure is, that in all places where
such shalbe founde to be (beyng of honest and quiet conuersation) and except they shalbe participant to the colour-
yng of other marchauntes goodes, the same shal not be molested eyther in their persons or goodes, otherwys then
where to the officers of the place it shal so seeme nedefull, and there they shal geue bondes one for another to be
forth commyng, and suffer inuentories to be made of their goodes.

117
furthermore her maiestie hearing by report, that the arrest of her subiectes on the other side the seas, shoulde be upon a pretence, for staying of one shippe and three or foure small barques, lately come into certayne her portes of her Realme, wherein certayne money was: hath thought good briefly to notifie the circumstance of that pretence, whereby may be seene manifestly, that the same is gathered without iust cause, and the deuisers and promoters of the same, whosoever they were, to haue proceeded disorderly and vnadvisedly. Her maiestie was first informed by her officers in certayne her portes in the west countrey of this Realme, that three or foure small barques, called Fabrias, were come out of Spayne into certayne portes there, hauing in them a quantitie of money belonging to sundry marchauntes of Italie and the lowe countreys, and that diuers shippes of Fraunce in warlike maner were vpon the same coastes, attending to surprise the sayde Spanishe vessels and treasure, if they shoulde passe to the seas, and that it was also to be feared, that they woulde enter into the very portes, and take them away by force. Whereupon her maiestie did sende strait commaundement by speciall letters, to all the portes in those west partes, that the marchauntes and owners of those vessels shoulde haue knowledge thereof, and that they and all other the kyng of Spaynes subiectes, shoulde be assisted and defended against the attemptes of the frenche, by all meanes possible. After which done, the Spanishe ambassadour here now resident, made like request to haue newe order for maiyntenaunce and assistance of the sayde vessels and treasure against the sayd frenche, whiche was also graunted to hym, and seuerall letters pattentes to that effect were deliuered to his owne messengers. And a whyle after this, he requiring of the Queenes maiestie, to vnderstande her pleasure, whether she woulde be content that the owners and conducters of the sayde treasure might be eyther conducted by sea or by lande to Douer, pretending the money to appertaine to the kyng his maister: her maiestie graunted to him, that whiche soeuer of these two wayes he would desire, shoulde be forthwith directed for hym, whereof he thanked her maiestie, saying that he woulde stay vntill he might sende into the lowe countreys, and haue worde from the Duke of Alua, whiche of those two wayes he woulde haue it transported. In the meane tyme, her maiestie was informed that the frenche had secretly in the night entered into one of her hauens in the west, where the sayde treasure was, and had attempted the surprise thereof, but were onely repulled by suche force as her maiesties officers had in redinesse for that purpose: a matter notorious to all the partes where the sayde shippes were assaulted, and well reported also to the ambassadour. Whereupon, considering howe doubtfull and therewith chargeable a matter it was, from tyme to tyme to preserue the same lying abroad in the hauens: it was thought best euen for the honour of the Realme, that the sayde treasure shoulde be taken on lande, and there safely preserued in the sight and presence of them that had the charge thereof, without touching or withdrawing any part of the same. And being then certaynely known to belong vnto marchauntes, it was also thought, after the due preseruation thereof from the perill of the seas, not an vnreasonable motion, nor against the honorable blage of princes in their owne dominions, to treat with the owners with their good contentation, and not otherwyle, to borrowe it or some part thereof, vpon lyke good assurance and conditions, as her maiestie hath oftentimes borrowed of other marchauntes, subiectes to the sayde kyng in his owne lowe countreys, and as other princes haue done lately in the very lyke cases. The lyke maner was bled towarde a ship lying neare Southampton laden with wolles, and wherein also treasure was, and in apparaunt daunger of frenchmen houering vpon that coast, who had made great offers to the officers there, onely to withdrawe their defence: for whiche purpose, her maiestie sent her captayne of the Isle of Wight for securitie, to haue the same likewise preserued from the frenche, and to be taken on lande: as if it had not ben, the frenche had taken it within foure and twentie houres after, whiche also was known to belong vnto marchauntes, and so is to be notoriously proued. And before the sayde captayne had taken care to see the same preserued, it is known what summes of money were offered to hym, to haue only left the ship wherein the wolles were, after the money taken on land, remayning to be vndefended: which the sayd captayne woulde not suffer, but armed certayne souldiers to very great charges by sea, whiche presently yet do continue to garde the sayde ship. And during this time, whylest this was in ordering, the Spanishe ambassadour came to her maiestie about the xxix. of December, bringyng with hym from the Duke of Alua a short letter, only of credence, & therupon required, that the vessels and money stayed in the portes might be put to libertie, as belonging to the kyn & his maister. To whom her maiestie answered, that she had in her doynges (if it were the kynges) shewed hym great pleasure to saue it from the frenche, shewing hym therein some particularities of the diligence of her officers, but she was informed that it belonged to marchauntes, and herein within foure or fve dayes she shoulde vnderstande

118
that shoulde be herein done. that in reason shoulde discontent
the kyng her good brother, as he shoulde also knowe within foure or five dayes at his next commyng. And so he de-
parted, not demyng but to alove of the answer. And her maiestie in the meane tyme hauyng accordyng to
her expectation answer from the west countrey, whereupon she intended to haue satisfied the ambassadour at his
commyng (which she looked for accordyng to her appoyntment) not only for the deliuey of the sayde shippes and trea-
sure, for such portion as myght appeare to belong to the sayde kyng: but also to haue perfourmed her first off- to
her gauen conduct for the same by lande or by sea. The first intelligence brought to her maiestie (without any re-
turne of the ambassadour) was, that all her subiectes, goodes, marchaundises, and shippes, were arrested, taken,
and kept at Andwerpe as prysoners, the very same present xxix. day that the ambassadour was with her maiestie, so
as it falleth out to every mans vnderstandyng, that howsoever her maiestie had then satisfied the ambassadour
the same xxix. day, all her subiectes and their goodes had ben neuerthelesse arrested. as they were at Andwerpe the
same day. whereupon her maiestie nowe leaueth it to the iudgement of all the worlde, to consider not only whether
such a pteence was sufficient to cause so sodaine, so violent, and so generall arrest to be made with force, in such ma-
ner, and at the tyme it was: but also in whom any default shalbe founde, whatsoever may folowe hereof, her ma-
iestie hauyng had no intention to discontent the kyng of Spayne, nor to possesse any thyng belongyng to his sub-
iectes, other wise then with their good wyll, vpon iuste, reasonable, and vsuall conditions. And thus muche her
maiestie hath thought conuenient to notifie to all persons, for testimonie of her sinceritie, and for maintenaunce of
her actions, whatsoever they shalbe, wherunto she may by this meanes be prouoked.

At Hampton Court the vi. of January, the xi. yere of her maiesties raigne, and the yere of our Lorde. 1568.

God saue the Queene.

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